THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes Sir. On Konkan Railway, there were 13 incidents of traffic disruptions where the trains were detained for more than 4 hours.

(b) To prevent such incidents during monsoon seasons, immediate temporary measures such as patrolling by locomotives in advance of the passenger train and temporary speed restriction of 40 kmph have been taken in addition to patrolling of vulnerable spot. These measures will be reviewed after provision of audio visual pre-warning alarm device called "Raksha Dhaga" in all deep cuttings more than 12 metre in depth. In tunnel approaches, sand bag buffers are being placed. In rock cuttings of 15 metre and above, works are being done with fixing of special steel boulder nets, rock bolting and shotcreting. In other type of cuttings, lined side drains with the protection wall or pitching along slope are being done. One round of special loose scaling on massive scale has also been taken up in all rock cuttings.

Introduction of Madhushala Express

683. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received to introduce a direct train from Mumbai to Allahabad by the name of 'Madhushala Express' in the fond memory of the popular poetic compendium of the renowned poet 'Harivansh Rai Bachchan'; and

(b) if so the action taken, so far, to introduce the above train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, frequency of 5025/5026 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Godan Express *via* Allahabad has been increased from weekly to tri-weekly from July 2003 Time Table.

Endangered railway tracks in Makrana

684. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to mining work in Makrana (Rajasthan), there is a grave danger to railway tracks, as appeared in the media recently;

(b) if so, action taken or proposed to be taken to avert the situation; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any survey for locating such situation in other areas also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The danger arose due to unauthorized mining on Makrana-Parbatsar branch line. No rail traffic is allowed on this line at present. Railway pursued the matter in High Court, Jodhpur to restrain unauthorized mining and also pursued with Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan. An amount of Rs. 3.93 crore has been deposited by Sangmarmar Khan Vikas Samiti for alternate alignment of this branch line.

(c) Regular inspections of all Railway affecting works (activities or structures around Railway track which may affect Railway track) are undertaken by Railway officials at periodical intervals and remedial action taken whenever required.

Railway Claims Tribunal

685. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claim settlement cases pending with Railway Claims Tribunals, zone-wise;

(b) the time likely to be taken to clear the pending claims; and

(c) the details of the measures taken and policy guidelines framed for speedy settlement of claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No. of cases pending as on 30.6.03: